



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
NO. LTC # 115-2006

LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Memorandum from Commissioner Jerry Libbin

The purpose of this LTC is to provide you with a copy of a memorandum from Commissioner Libbin which provides an update on several projects he has been working on since his election to office.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

JMG/dm

F:\cmgr\ALL\LTC-06\Transmittal Comm Libbin's memo.doc

RECEIVED
06 APR 20 AM 11:29
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Memo to: Jorge Gonzalez, Mayor and Commissioners

From: Jerry Libbin

I wanted to give a brief update on several projects that I have been working on since my election last Fall.

1. During the campaign I made it clear that I was committed to expanding programs for the children of Miami Beach in the area of the Arts. I feel that one of the best ways to do this is to provide FREE program offerings from top quality instructors through the after school programs at the various public school facilities in the City. I have been meeting with representatives of our major cultural institutions, including The New World Symphony, The Miami City Ballet, The Bass Museum, The Wolfsonian, and The Jewish Museum to elicit their support for this initiative. I have asked each institution to prepare age appropriate offerings for 9 week programs throughout the school year, along with appropriate budget requirements. We have also been meeting with Mr. Jorge Diaz, at the request of the Principal of Fisher Feinberg Elementary to assist in the planning and scheduling process.
2. A second goal that I have is to broaden the base of our tourism, which would have obvious positive economic impact on our City. I believe that we have the opportunity to do this by marketing our world class cultural organizations and thereby attempting to create inbound Cultural Tourism. I know that when we travel as a family, we often select destinations that offer cultural opportunities for the entire family to enjoy as part of our vacation. Last summer, for example, we included travel to Sydney, Australia as part of our vacation because we wanted to experience a concert in the Sydney Opera House. I have been working with Michael Aller, David Whitaker (GMVCB), Joe West (FIU) the Dean who has been responsible for the tremendous success of opening a brand new FIU campus in a major city in China, along with the executives of our top notch professional institutions (New World Symphony and Miami City Ballet).

In addition, there have been other members of our community involved in the planning to this point of a proposed establishment of a Sister City or other less formal relationship with one or more cities in China. I am pleased to report that there would be definite interest from at least one city and I am seeking input from the Commission at this point as to how to proceed. I look forward to exploring this further with all of you at our upcoming retreat.